

Appl. No. : 10/800,814  
Filed : March 15, 2004

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. Additions are underlined; deletions are in ~~strikeout~~ text.

Please cancel claims 7, 9, and 20-26 without prejudice.

1. (Currently Amended) A hockey stick comprising a shaft and a blade, the blade having a core substantially enclosed within an outer layer, the outer layer formed by at least one composite layer of fibers entrained in a cured resin, the fiber and resin composite fully enclosing the core and comprising a primary impact layer-wall and a secondary impact layer-wall that generally oppose one another, the core comprising a foam-filled-cell structure comprising a plurality of spaced apart cell walls, the cell structure filled with an expanded foam disposed between the cell walls, the core arranged between the primary and secondary impact layers-walls and configured so that longitudinal axes of the cell walls generally extend in a direction from the primary impact layer-wall toward the secondary impact layer-wall, wherein the cell walls are made of a material that is more compliant than the primary impact wall.

2. (Currently Amended) The hockey stick of Claim 1, wherein the longitudinal axes of the cell walls generally extend in a direction generally perpendicular to the primary impact layer-wall.

3. (Currently Amended) The hockey stick of Claim 1, wherein the primary and secondary impact layers-walls comprise a plurality of layers of fibers~~laminated structure~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The hockey stick of Claim 3, wherein the cell walls substantially engage the primary impact layer-laminated structure-wall.

5. (Currently Amended) The hockey stick of Claim 4, wherein the cell walls substantially engage the secondary impact layer-laminated structure-wall.

6. (Currently Amended) The hockey stick of Claim 4, wherein a layer of foam is disposed between the cell walls and the secondary impact layer-laminated structure-wall.

7. Cancelled

8. (Currently Amended) The hockey stick of Claim 1, wherein the cell structure is constructed of a material having greater ability to dampen vibrations from impacts than does the

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composite that forms ~~configured to dampen vibrations from impacts to the primary impact layer~~ wall.

9. Cancelled

10. (Currently Amended) The hockey stick of Claim 98, wherein the outer layer is substantially rigid and the cell structure is semi-rigid.

11. (Currently Amended) The hockey stick of Claim 1, wherein the cell structure comprises an open cell structure in which at least one cell wall is not interconnected with the other cell walls.

12. (Currently Amended) The hockey stick of Claim 1, wherein the cell structure comprises a closed cell structure in which the cell walls are interconnected.

13. (Original) The hockey stick of Claim 12, wherein cell walls intersect to form a plurality of closed cells.

14. (Original) The hockey stick of Claim 13, wherein the cell structure is arranged in a honeycomb structure.

15. (Original) The hockey stick of Claim 12, wherein a diameter of the cells is between about 1/20 in. and 1/2 in.

16. (Original) The hockey stick of Claim 15, wherein the diameter is between about 1/8 in. and 3/8 in.

17. (Currently Amended) The hockey stick of Claim 1, wherein the blade core comprises a first ~~portion~~ zone and a second ~~portion~~ zone, each zone comprising the cell structure and foam in a corresponding area of the core, and the first ~~portion~~ zone of the core has different structural properties than the second ~~portion~~ zone.

18. (Currently Amended) The hockey stick of Claim 17, wherein the first ~~portion~~ zone comprises a cell structure and the second ~~zone~~ portion does not comprise a cell structure.

19. (Currently Amended) The hockey stick of Claim 17, wherein the first zone ~~portion~~ comprises a foam having greater structural strength than a material of the second ~~zone~~ portion.

20-26. Cancelled

27. (Currently Amended) A sports stick having a handle portion and a contact portion, the contact portion configured to impact a sports implement and having a cover

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comprising a primary impact face and a secondary impact face that generally oppose one another, and a generally rigid elongate spine extends between the primary and secondary impact faces along the length of the contact portion, the contact portion further comprising a-an upper core and a lower core substantially surrounded by a-the cover, at least one of the cores comprising a celled structural member constructed of a different material than the cover and comprising a plurality of cell walls, the cell walls arranged to extend generally in a direction from the primary impact face to the secondary impact face, wherein the upper and lower cores are separated from one another by the elongate spine.

28. (Currently Amended) The hockey stick of Claim 27, wherein the ~~celled member~~ is-cell walls are more pliable than the primary impact face.

29. (Original) The hockey stick of Claim 28, wherein the celled member is configured to absorb and dampen vibrations from impacts to the primary impact face.

Please add the following new claims:

30. (New) The hockey stick of Claim 1, wherein the cell walls are made of a material that is less compliant than the expanded foam.

31. (New) The hockey stick of Claim 30, wherein the blade comprises a tenon portion adapted to connect the blade to the shaft, and in the tenon portion of the blade, the core comprises an expanded foam but does not include cell walls.

32. (New) The hockey stick of Claim 30, wherein a spine extends between the primary and secondary impact walls, and the spine extends from a heel portion of the blade to a toe portion of the blade.

33. (New) The hockey stick of Claim 32, wherein the core comprises an upper core portion and a lower core portion that are separated by the spine.

34. (New) The hockey stick of Claim 30, wherein the primary impact wall comprises an insert.

35. (New) The hockey stick of Claim 34, wherein the insert comprises a metal.

36. (New) The hockey stick of Claim 27, wherein the primary face comprises a composite made up of a plurality of layers of fibers entrained in a cured resin.

37. (New) The hockey stick of Claim 35, wherein the spine comprises a composite made up of fibers entrained in a cured resin.

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38. (New) The hockey stick of Claim 27, wherein the lower core comprises cell walls.

39. (New) The hockey stick of Claim 37, wherein the upper core comprises expanded foam, and the upper core does not include cell walls extending generally from the primary impact face to the secondary impact face.